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UMMRA Info

Campus News, Newsletters, and Events

Fall 2015

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University of Minnesota, Morris Retirees' Association

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UMMRA Info

A quarterly publication of the University of Minnesota, Morris Retirees' Association

<http://www.morris.umn.edu/ummra>

Volume XVII, Number 6

Fall 2015

Welcome to all UMMRA members and all other readers throughout the communities we serve. Happy to have you on board with us!

*In the past year UMMRA has experienced changes! In April, Lynn Schulz was elected treasurer, replacing Ron Kubik, and Roger Boleman became our new member-at-large, replacing Dennis Johnson. Sincere thanks to Ron and Dennis for their service on our UMMRA Board. And, effective July 1, Bonnie Tipcke has resigned as our secretary. Bonnie and husband Tip will be moving to Carver, Minn., to be closer to their children/grandchildren. That move is "in progress" with comings and goings aplenty! Many thanks to Bonnie, and a big "welcome back" to Joan Reicosky who has agreed to **temporarily** replace Bonnie. (Let us know if you are interested in the secretary position.) And, here I am, your new active president!*

Our last UMMRA event was held on June 4 as we toured the Maritime Museum in Alexandria, and enjoyed a picnic potluck lunch held at the home of Dian and Andy Lopez on beautiful Lake Ida. We also met at the Stevens County Historical Society on September 3 to enjoy a potluck lunch and museum tour.

I hope you had a relaxed summer, and we look forward to seeing you soon. If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact any board member or myself at larsonmt@umn.edu or by phone at 320-287-0208.

Maggie Larson

UMMRA President 2015-2017

COMING EVENTS

All UMMRA members are welcome to attend meetings and events. Watch your UMMRA email for additional details.

•**Now through Friday, Nov. 6, sunrise to sundown on the north lawn of the Humanities Fine Arts building** The Edward J. and Helen Jane Morrison Gallery host "Farmachinery," an outdoor sculpture installation by New York Mills sculptor Tim Cassidy.

•**Friday, Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m., Edson Aud.**

Performing Arts Series season opener: Rhythmic Circus

•**Thursday, Oct. 1, 11:45 a.m., DeToy's Family Restaurant**, UMMRA meeting. Featured speaker PRCA representative Dawn Poore. All UMMRA members are welcome!

•**Saturday, Oct. 3, Homecoming 2015**

Cougar 5K Run, Regional Fitness Center (RFC), 10 a.m.

Women's Basketball Alumni Reunion, "open gym" for current and former players, 10 a.m.

Tailgate party, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Big Cat Stadium

Football Game vs. MacMurray College, 12 p.m., Big Cat Stadium

Men's Soccer vs. St. Scholastica, 2 p.m. Soccer Fields

Green Tour 2 p.m., departing from Big Cat Stadium

Meet Head Football Coach Rob Cushman and assistant coaches, Matt Johnson '03 and Marty Hoffman '05 along with Director of Athletics Jason Herbers, immediately following the football game, Big Cat Stadium.

UMM Alumni Association Gathering, LaFave House 3-5 p.m.

Women's Soccer vs. St. Scholastica, 4:15 p.m. Soccer Fields

•**Friday, Oct. 9, 7:30 p.m., Edson Aud.** Performing Arts Series: Home Free

•**Wednesday, Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m., John Q. Imholte Hall 109** Jooinn Lee Lecture

•**October 19-21** Fall Break

•**Thursday, Nov. 5 11:45 a.m., Old No. 1 downstairs,** UMMRA First Thursday. Speaker: Bryan Herrmann, vice chancellor/finance and facilities. All UMMRA members are welcome!

•**Thursday, Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m., HFA 110 Theatre** Production “The Normal Heart” by Larry Kramer

•**Thursday, Dec. 3, 5 p.m., Grandstay Hotel (Hwy 28, Morris)** UMMRA Holiday Party. Hors d’oeuvres and a tour of the hotel included. All UMMRA members are welcome!

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Vice Chancellor Emeritus for Finance and Facilities **Lowell Rasmussen** received the inaugural James Farrell Re(Cognition) Award at the 2015 Upper Midwest Association for Campus Sustainability (UMACS) biennial conference. The award honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions toward advancing sustainability efforts in the Upper Midwest. The James Farrell Re(Cognition) Award was named for James Farrell, a St. Olaf professor of history, American studies and environmental studies.

UMM has appointed its first senior administrative director of institutional effectiveness, **Melissa R. Bert**. The position is funded with new dollars from the University system through a request made in the campus’ annual budget compact process and responds to the growing trend of evaluating institutional effectiveness in American higher education. Melissa will work closely with senior-level administrators and others to provide information and analysis that supports administrative decision making, strategic planning, assessment and program review, accreditation, and data relevant to federal and other grant applications.

Vicki Pieske has joined the Office of Student Affairs as executive office and administrative specialist. Vicki comes to Morris with 15 years of experience at the Minnewaska Lutheran Home where she served as admission coordinator, social services designee, and health information manager. She was also a member of the Pope County Adult

Protection team task force. Vicki had also served as assistant office manager at the Starbuck Clinic.

Welcome **Ben Iverson** as director of Admissions. Ben brings extensive experience in student recruitment and advising, both in the domestic and international market. Ben was formerly at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, S.D., as director of international admissions and advising. He also has served Augustana as associate and assistant director of admissions as well as admissions counselor. Prior to joining the Augustana admissions staff in 2005, he worked as an international coordinator at Bodoe University College (now Nordland University) in Norway.

Jason Herbers joins UMM as director of intercollegiate athletics. Herbers served as the associate athletic director in charge of development and operations at Dixie State University in Saint George, Utah, for five years and five years as Utah State University’s assistant athletic director. He brings 18 years of experience working in college athletics, including successful stints with National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I, II, and III affiliated programs and conferences. Herber’s appointment follows the retirement this summer of long-time athletic director **Mark Fohl**.

Simón Franco ‘08 has been hired as Student Activities and Leadership Coordinator. Simón has been working in the Office of Equity, Diversity and Intercultural Programs for the last two years. He will work with the Campus Activities Council and their programming, including Concerts, Films, Homecoming, Convocations and the Performing Arts Series. He will also develop a leadership program for student leaders in collaboration with other campus offices and departments.

Bill Robb has joined the staff of External Relations as a development officer. Bill holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of North Dakota and is a certified gift planning associate.

Ernie and Cathy Kemble spent two months at South Padre Island, Texas.

Lynn and Sheila Schulz took a bus trip to the Canadian Rockies in Fall 2014. “We also try to keep up with seven of eight grandchildren.” Lynn drives vehicles for auto dealers and the Stevens County Vet’s Van.

Watching great grandsons play ball is a favorite pastime of **Arlene Beseman**, along with her church and Senior Center of Coon Rapids activities. "I'm looking forward to three more great grandchildren this summer."

Mary Ann Scharf spent two weeks in Norway in June on a tour guided by Chancellor Emeritus **Dave Johnson**.

Ferolyn Angell took two short trips to NYC. Also renovated a small house in Hancock for daughter's daycare.

Travel to Israel, Ireland and Australia have occupied **Tap** and Margaret **Payne** who call Prescott Valley, Ariz., home. Painting scenery for a local community theatre, a mission trip to Mexico and serving at a local camp for children and families also fills their time.

Barbara McGinnis spent time with her children in Springfield, Ill., and California.

Gordon and Jane Harstad fifth-wheeled to Colorado and other parts of surrounding states and Minnesota.

Michael and Marie O'Reilly spent four months in Ireland.

George and Pat Fosgate traveled to Cabo San Lucas in March and Las Vegas in June. They work for their daughter's Catering by Laurie and as Senior Lifestyle models.

Joan and Don Reicosky vacationed in Aruba and took a Viking Cruise through China. Don has published a couple of articles.

SAD NEWS

•Ruth Gremmels, wife of the late Professor Emeritus **Jim Gremmels**, passed away July 1 at her home in rural Glenwood following a long battle with cancer. Services were held July 7 in rural Starbuck. She earned her education degree in 1965 from UMM and began teaching at Norgaard Elementary School (Glenwood) in 1967. Ruth retired in 1994, following a 27-year teaching career.

•Robert "Jerry" Klein, husband of former UMM employee **Virginia Klein (Ginny Hinmon)**, passed away on May 31 at Greenway Manor Nursing Home. A Mass was held June 4 at St. John's Catholic Church in Spring Green, Wisconsin.

•Richard Saue, father of **Carrie Grussing** (Chancellor's office), passed away August 16. Memorial services were held August 20.

•Services for **Juel Stenson** of Morris, formerly of Hancock, were held August 21 at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Hancock. Juel graduated from the West Central School of Agriculture in 1938.

HATS OFF TO UMM



This Science courtyard pond is in the area between old science, the auditorium and on the south end, the new faculty office wing. This area can also be viewed from the inside walkway in the building going from old science to the auditorium. It was formerly concrete around a gravel "planting area." The pond has been in since the new building was added; however, due to a leaking liner, it was re-done. After its basic construction, Plant Services' own Gail Boe made a planting area in the middle and added all Minnesota native woodland type plants and the waterfall pond. Gail's summer student was Anne Ternes (pictured). Another pond (featured in the Fall 2014 UMMRA Info issue) is located behind the Welcome Center. Both ponds will be home to water lilies and goldfish.

Dedication of the new EcoStation outdoor learning venue was held September 13 at the site

located near Ashby. Built on land gifted to Morris in December 2014, EcoStation expands the capacity of the University of Minnesota to conduct environmental education, research and stewardship in the west central region. The venue provides opportunities for undergraduate and other researchers to collaborate on study that promotes a sustainable environment and future.

UMM has earned a STARS Gold 2.0 rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), in recognition of its sustainability achievements. STARS, the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, measures and

Sierra magazine has named UMM among the top 40 “Cool Schools” for 2015. This listing by the Sierra Club's official publication ranks universities that lead sustainability initiatives and strive to protect and preserve the environment. Morris was ranked 33rd of 153 institutions and was the most highly ranked school in the state.

Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson announces retirement

(Information from University Relations news release)

Chancellor Jacqueline R. Johnson plans to retire as chancellor at the end of the 2015–16 academic year. She made her announcement on August 19 at the Opening Faculty and Staff Convocation. Chancellor Johnson became Morris’ fifth, and first female, chancellor in August 2006.

“This year marks my 10th year as chancellor, and I decided this spring that it will be my last,” said Chancellor Johnson. During her tenure at Morris, the campus has increased its capacity to support students, has added and renovated facilities, and has established itself in the higher education community as a national leader dedicated to sustainability.

“It’s the perfect time for the campus to experience new leadership: we are well positioned for the present and the future, our enrollment remains strong, our student profile represents the diversity and talent that is part of our heritage, the quality of our faculty and staff is outstanding, and our residence halls are full to overflowing,” said the chancellor.

“Throughout her time as Chancellor, Jacquie has been a staunch advocate for the Morris campus, its students, faculty and staff,” said University

President Eric Kaler. “She has provided exemplary service, strong leadership and grown the school in myriad ways. I thank her for all she has done and look forward to another successful year and smooth leadership transition.”

“I will miss this place, and most of all I will miss the campus community—its candor, its outspokenness, its insistence on consultation and collaboration, its belief in this campus’ mission, and the passion it exhibits in fulfilling it,” said Chancellor Johnson.

“And I’m not gone yet,” she added. “We have a full year of hard work and new adventures in front of us, and I expect to live this year to its fullest.”

President Kaler will lead the next steps in the search for Morris’ next chancellor, in consultation with the campus community. A search is expected to commence shortly, and a new chancellor will take office next summer.

Additional remarks by Chancellor Johnson

Opening Convocation August 19, 2015

- Campus has received \$1.2 million in gifts in FY 2015 including a gift of 140 acres of land north of Ashby, Minn. As of August 19, gifts have exceeded total gifts from FY 2014-2015.

- Fall enrollment total (as of 8/17/15) is 1,803. Average ACT: 25. 27.85% students of color, making Morris the most diverse campus in the University of Minnesota system. 39.81% first generation. 81.95% are from Minnesota. 13.30% out of state. 4.75% international representing 14 different countries. 17.30% American Indian students (compared to 1.2% TC campus; 1.5% Duluth campus)

“We will have a vibrant campus life,” said Chancellor Johnson:

- 988 students live on campus, highest number in 20 years
- 79% retention rate from Fall 2014 to Fall 2015

- Morris welcomes Distinguished Visiting Scholar Gary Nabhan, ag ecologist and recipient of the MacArthur Foundation “Genius” Award for several dates this semester. Nabhan is an internationally-celebrated nature writer, food and farming activist, and proponent of conserving the links between biodiversity and cultural diversity.